

Spring 2021



Newsletter



WISCONSIN COUNCIL ON PROBLEM GAMBLING

MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS: Potawatomi Hotel & Casino

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GAMBLING ADDICTION ON THE RISE AMID PANDEMIC

Online betting and compulsive gambling are on the rise amid the COVID-19 pandemic and March is Problem Gambling Awareness Month.

Wis. (WEAU) -While casinos were largely shut down in March as the pandemic took hold in Wisconsin, many people turned to online sites, technology becoming a huge enabler.

March Madness has only proven to fuel the fire, with an estimated \$10 billion in bets placed on the NCAA basketball championship games each year.

The Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling says every year when March Madness rolls around, calls to the Wisconsin Problem Gambling Helpline spike 30%.

In 2020, they received a record number of calls to their helpline, nearly 17,000 contacts, whether it was via phone, email or their chat service, compared to 2019, where they trafficked about 12,000 helpline calls.

Rose Blozinski is the executive director of the Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling. She says gambling is a hidden disease and it did not go away during the pandemic.

“There’s virtual casinos, there’s sports betting, there’s all kinds of things. You can be sitting right next to somebody and be gambling on your phone and nobody’s going to know that, because with a gambling addiction nothing’s being ingested like there would be with other addictions,” says Blozinski. “So it’s easy to hide, it can go on much longer than other addictions.”

The Wisconsin Lottery also reports scratch sales were up 14% in June of 2020, compared to the previous fiscal year.

WCPG has a number of 24-hour resources available for those who may need help.

They also hold virtual gamblers anonymous meetings on a weekly basis via zoom.

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Alta Valenta-
Conference Coordinator

Twenty-Second Annual Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling Statewide Conference

"Help, Hope, and Harmony through Awareness, Education, and Prevention"

Milwaukee Marriott in Waukesha, WI

Make your reservations now by calling 877-651-7666 to get the special conference rate of \$119.00 a night!

September 16-17, 2021 (Pre-Conference on September 15)

CEU certifications will be applied for through:

- NAADAC
- NASW
- EACC
- IGCCB
- WAMFT

*The workshops include Ethics and Clinical Supervision.
Scholarships Available on our Website

For more information visit our website at wi-problemgamblers.org

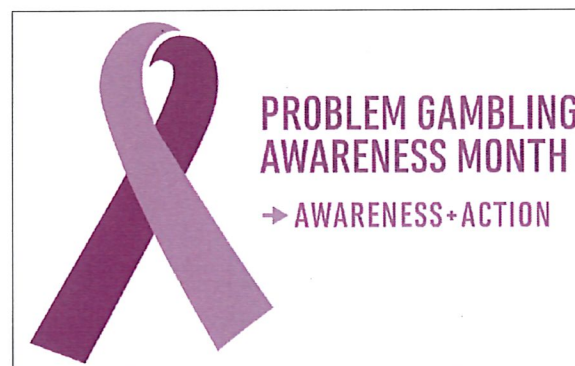
MARCH WAS PROBLEM GAMBLING AWARENESS MONTH!

PGAM is a grassroots campaign that depends on the participation of NCPG state Affiliate, organizational and individual members, state health agencies, gambling companies, recovery groups, and a wide range of healthcare organizations and providers. Groups across America held conferences, aired Public Service Announcements, provided counselor trainings, hosted health screening days, ran social media campaigns, and many other activities to increase public awareness of problem gambling and the availability of prevention, treatment, and recovery services.

The 2021 PGAM theme was "**Awareness + Action**" #AwarenessPlusAction #PGAM

The goals of this national campaign were:

- ◆ To increase public awareness of problem gambling and the availability of prevention, treatment & recovery services.
- ◆ To encourage healthcare providers to screen clients for problem gambling.



We provide education, awareness, and resources on problem gambling disorders.

We Can Help

Call: 1-800-GAMBLE-5 (1-800-426-2535)

Text: 1-850-888-HOPE (1-850-888-4673)

Chat: <https://wi-problemgamblers.org/>

We are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

STATE of WISCONSIN



OFFICE of the GOVERNOR

Proclamation

WHEREAS, problem gambling is a public health issue affecting millions of Americans, including thousands of Wisconsinites, of all ages, races, and ethnic backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, problem gambling has a significant societal and economic cost for individuals, families, businesses, and communities, but treatment can be effective in minimizing harm; and

WHEREAS, numerous individuals, professionals, and organizations have dedicated their efforts to educating the public about problem gambling and the availability and effectiveness of treatment; and

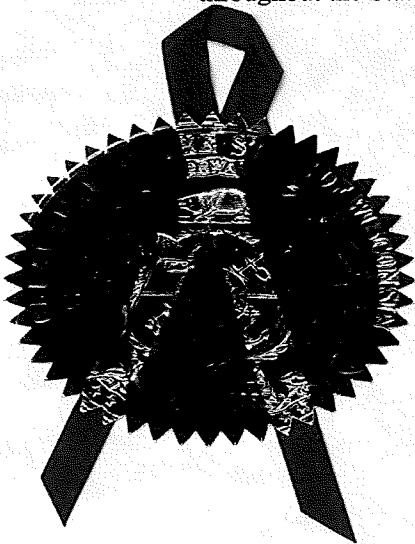
WHEREAS, if you or a loved one are struggling with problem gambling, the Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling operates a free 24-hour helpline at 800-GAMBLE-5, or 800-426-2535; and

WHEREAS, this month, the state of Wisconsin joins the National Council on Problem Gambling and the Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling in spreading awareness and encouraging all Wisconsinites to talk with friends, family, patients, and clients about recognizing and preventing potential gambling disorder;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, do hereby proclaim March 2021 as

NATIONAL PROBLEM GAMBLING AWARENESS MONTH

throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance to all our state's residents.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this 24th day of February 2021.

Tony Evers
TONY EVERS
GOVERNOR

By the Governor:

Douglas La Follette
DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE
Secretary of State

Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling, Inc. 2020 Year in Review

The year 2020 was the 22nd year of our Compulsive Gambling Public Awareness Campaign. It was our 26th year in operation and the 24th year of the 24-hour Helpline. The Council continued to see tremendous growth during the past year.

The Public Awareness Campaign contains six different project areas used to enhance the awareness of Problem and Compulsive Gambling. These areas include the 24-hour Helpline, High School Educational Curriculum, Statewide Compulsive Gambling Awareness Conference, our Public Relations Media Awareness Campaign, and the Training of Human Service Professionals.

24 Hour Helpline

The Helpline received 16,779 calls in 2020 with the highest month being November with 1,865 calls. We continue to receive many hits to our website annually. We received 10,258 web hits in 2020. The highest month was January with 1,602 hits. The average debt amount of calls to the Helpline was \$30,377. However, many people refuse to divulge this information and are confused about their indebtedness. Area code 414 received the most calls. During the year 2020, 391 referrals were made and 14 packets of information were sent. The chat line received 57 chats, and the text line received 14 texts.

Outreach Program

The WCPG provides an Outreach Program. This program provides educational sessions to high school students around the state. The goal of the program is to provide education and awareness on gambling disorders. Students learn the definitions of gambling, the risks associated with gambling, the warning signs, and how to get help for themselves or others. Presentations in schools throughout the state continued through March 13, 2020. The Outreach program reached 602 students and 10 staff through 22 classes in 2020. All presentations after March 13, 2020, were cancelled due to Covid-19.

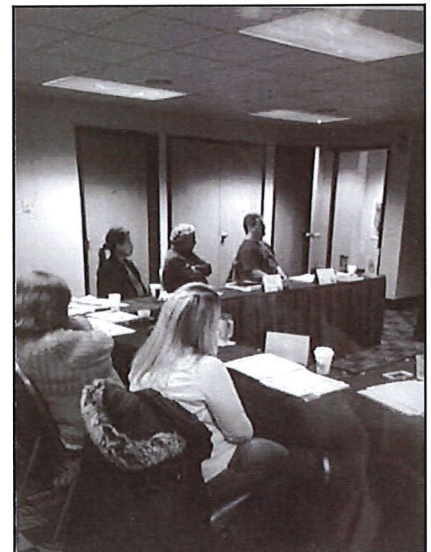
State Wide Compulsive Gambling Conference

The WCPG hosted its 21st Annual Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling Statewide Conference August 13-14, 2020, at the Hyatt-Regency in Green Bay, WI. A total of 57 people attended the two day conference. Due to Covid-19, attendance was down.

Training of Human Service Professionals

We have been able to provide one Phase 3 and Phase 4 training session during 2020. A total of 65 training units were provided through our training sessions. We offered two webinars during 2020. All other trainings were postponed until 2021.

We continue to develop a list of all persons/agencies within the state of Wisconsin qualified to provide training, education, treatment, or public information at various levels for use by such groups as Employee Assistance Programs, human resource personnel, AODA personnel, school counselors, treatment providers, and civic and church groups.



SPRING

Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling, Inc. 2020 Year in Review

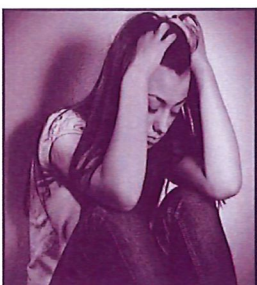
Public Relations/Media Campaign

As part of the media awareness campaign, the following has been accomplished or continues:

- ◆ Planning, development, and implementation of the public awareness campaign--phase twenty-two.
- ◆ The WCPG continues to develop a list within the State of Wisconsin with persons/agencies qualified to provide training, education, treatment, or public information at various levels on the issue of compulsive gambling.
- ◆ Continued distribution of twelve different posters.
- ◆ The WCPG increased its social media presence through Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest, You Tube, LinkedIn, and Twitter.
- ◆ One-on-one media interviews in the state's five main media markets.
- ◆ More than 200 media contacts including newspapers, radio, and television.
- ◆ Press releases regarding the WCPG effort were distributed.
- ◆ Continued distribution of "Is Gambling Affecting Your Life?" (Approximately 180,000 have been distributed)
- ◆ Exterior bus signage continues in several cities throughout Wisconsin.
- ◆ Bathroom ads in Wisconsin Casinos.
- ◆ Exhibits at a variety of conferences and programs throughout the state.
- ◆ Tokens, magnets, pens, pencils, note clips, back scratchers, calendars, oven sticks, and computer dusters, etc. are being distributed in a variety of ways throughout Wisconsin. These public awareness "tools" are an excellent opportunity to get the 800-Helpline number out to thousands of people. People will pick up a pen, which has the 800 number on it, more likely than they would pick up a pamphlet.
- ◆ Continued partnership with the Wisconsin Lottery.
- ◆ Increased materials in our resource library.
- ◆ Continued distribution of WCPG brochures including "special population" brochures.
- ◆ Continued distribution of membership brochure.
- ◆ Continued development of a data collection process for a book of experts.
- ◆ Reached an estimated 34,000 people through contacts at exhibits, workshops, and conferences (prior to 2020).
- ◆ WCPG continues to speak to a variety of groups—EAP, social service departments, counselors, people working with the elderly, Dept. of Corrections, etc. to provide education and awareness on the compulsive gambling addiction.
- ◆ WCPG continues to distribute our quarterly newsletter to over 5,500 people.
- ◆ A workplace brochure continues to be distributed to generate more awareness in the workplace environment.
- ◆ A legislative newsletter is distributed quarterly to all Legislators in Wisconsin.
- ◆ A brochure geared toward parents continues to be distributed.
- ◆ Planning session with the Board of Directors to assess public awareness program.

~ Youth Outreach ~

The WCPG has been providing educational programs to High School Students for over 7 years. It is a program we have seen grow as we continued to teach students about gambling disorders. Due to the pandemic, presenting in schools became impossible. Recently we developed a video presentation "Problem Gambling and Gambling Disorder" to provide to teachers as requested. This video is a 34-minute video which will



provide the viewer with basic education about Gambling Disorders. The video will discuss what is a gambling problem, signs of a gambling problem, how to get help if you have a gambling problem and more. There are 3 videos included in the video that will help encourage additional discussion about problem gambling disorders. We are excited to share this video with classrooms throughout the state. If you are interested in sharing this video with teens, please check out our Outreach page on our website at wi-problemgamblers.org or call us at 920-437-8888.

Upcoming Webinars

The WCPG is hosting a series of webinars throughout 2021

May 12 & 19, 2021

If I Can't Balance My Checkbook, How Can I Help You Balance Yours?
Jerry Bauerkemper, BS, CCGC

June 16, 2021

The Shame in Gambling
Andrew Schreier, ICS, CSAC, LPC, ICGC-1

August 18, 2021

Video Gaming Gambling?
Doug LaBelle, LCSW, NCGC-II, CEAP

October 20, 2021

Investment Gambling?
Doug LaBelle, LCSW, NCGC-II, CEAP

December 15, 2021

Awareness Without Expectations, The Role of Mindfulness in Recovery
Pat Jirovetz, ATRL, LPC, ICGC-II

Cost for Webinars: \$20.00 each or \$75.00 for all

Please visit the WCPG webpage at <https://wi-problemgamblers.org/>
for developing information regarding the series

2021 Training Registration Form

If you have previously taken the Phase 1 & 2 Trainings, please feel free to sign-up for the Phase 3 & 4 trainings at this time

PHASE 3 OBJECTIVES:

- ◆ Multicultural issues and problem gambling (Hispanics, African Americans and Asians)
- ◆ Women and problem gambling
- ◆ Special populations: Adolescents
- ◆ Special populations: Older adults
- ◆ Special populations: Women
- ◆ Generational factors and gambling issues
- ◆ Military experience and gambling risk factors

*Must provide proof of Phase 1 and 2 completion.

PHASE 4 OBJECTIVES:

- ◆ Problem gambling and relapse
- ◆ Professional code and ethical standards
- ◆ Financial planning for recovery
- ◆ Prevention efforts
- ◆ Signs of problem gambling in the workplace and EAP
- ◆ Relapse prevention
- ◆ Group and individual counseling
- ◆ National certification standards/National certification exam

*Must provide proof of Phase 1, 2 and 3 completion.

Training Locations

Milwaukee:

Four Points by Sheraton—
Milwaukee North Shore
8900 N Kildeer Ct
Milwaukee, WI 53209

Mail Registration with check or money order to:

WCPG
1585 Allouez Avenue
Green Bay, WI 54311

To pay by credit card please register online at:

[http://wi-problemgamblers.org/
conferencetraining/wcpg's-
gambling-disorder-training-
program-phase-1-4](http://wi-problemgamblers.org/conferencetraining/wcpg's-gambling-disorder-training-program-phase-1-4)

Phase 3: June 17-18, 2021

Phase 4: July 15-16, 2021

Thursday:

8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
(1 hour lunch)

Friday:

8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
(1 hour lunch)

Please Print

Name	Title	
Address	City/State/Zip	COUNTY
Organization		
Phone	EMail	

TOTAL COST	Phases taken separately	Phase 3	Phase 4	Phase 3 & 4 together
	\$125 each	\$125	\$125	*\$175

Please indicate which training you are registering for and enter total cost - Thank you

For help: Call: 1-800-GAMBLE-5 (1-800-426-2535)

Text: 1-850-888-HOPE (1-850-888-4673)

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**Newsletter now available via
email....**

Please contact
The Wisconsin Council
on Problem Gambling
1-800-Gamble-5
or email:
wcp@wi-problemgamblers.org

View this newsletter on the web at:

www.wi-problemgamblers.org

Inside this issue:

- **Gambling Addiction Article**
- **Statewide Conference**
- **Problem Gambling Awareness Month**

- **2020 Year in Review**
- **Youth Outreach**
- **Webinars**
- **Phase 3-4 Training**

VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT: The WCPG is currently accepting volunteers. Anyone interested in donating their time and skills to the organization by helping with administrative projects is encouraged to contact us at (920)437-8888.

RESOURCE LIBRARY: The WCPG has both books and videos in our lending library. Materials can be loaned out on a two week basis. These materials can also be mailed to you. For more information, call Alta at (920) 437-8888 or e-mail her at: conference@wi-problemgamblers.org

The Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling, Inc. provides resources, public awareness and education on gambling disorders while maintaining strict neutrality on the issue of legalized gambling.

Our goals are to:

- Promote public education and awareness of gambling disorders.
- Maintain a toll-free statewide Helpline where people with gambling disorders and their families can call for immediate and continuing assistance in dealing with the addiction.
- Advocate quality assistance for all individuals affected by gambling disorders.
- Identify "high risk" individuals and groups with gambling disorders and provide prevention activities and information.
- Provide expert training to professional counselors in the treatment of gambling disorders.
- Compile and maintain a database of statistical information concerning gambling disorders in Wisconsin.